



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/979,575
Applicant : Biermann et al.
Filed : November 6, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1711
Examiner : Foelak, Morton

Confirmation No. 5943

Docket No. : 1550-SPL
Customer No. : 26085

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT & REPLY

Dear Sir/Madam:

In response to the Office Action of March 26, 2004 please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail and is addressed to, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on	
<u>9/27/04</u>	
Date	
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